

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

**HB 828 – SB 1090**

April 7, 2015

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs from charging a fee for the interment of an eligible veteran in a Tennessee Veterans Cemetery and limits the fee to \$300 for the interment of an eligible veteran's spouse.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:**

Decrease State Revenue – Exceeds \$200,000

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (005999):** Deletes subsection (b) in Section 1 and limits the fee to \$609 for the interment of an eligible veteran's spouse.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Decrease State Revenue - Exceeds \$50,000**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department currently charges \$700 per eligible spouse and dependents for burial fees at the four Tennessee State Veterans Cemeteries.
- The Department is reimbursed by the federal government for the cost of the veteran burials but not for the spouses or dependents.
- The Department received \$316,900 in burial fees for 528 eligible spouses and dependents in FY11-12; \$349,281 in FY12-13 for 550 eligible spouses and dependents; and \$384,300 in FY13-14 for 549 eligible spouses and dependents.
- The Department assumes the burials of eligible spouses and dependents will remain fairly constant. Using the FY13-14 data, the loss in state revenue is estimated at least \$50,000 per year [ $\$384,300 - (\$609 \times 549) = \$49,959$ ].
- The Department uses the burial fees for spouses and dependents for perpetual care, improvements at the State's existing cemeteries as well as carry-forward funds for future cemeteries.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

**HB 828 – SB 1090**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Spalding". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

/lsc